

**The Times-Dispatch**  
DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1910.

**THE MERGER AND THE CLUB.**

The Senate Committee on Finance and Courts of Justice have rejected the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac merger on the ground that it would be prejudicial to the interests of the State. This action is regarded as a death blow, and it is possible that there will be no further attempt to legislate upon this subject at the present session of the General Assembly. The reasons given by the Senate committee for their action are not, in our opinion, conclusive. But as their action was predicated upon the welfare of the State it would not be unfortunate if, for the same controlling purpose, the Legislature should now reconsider the two other bills passed at this session providing for the coercion of the railroads—the Sunday bill and the Flag bill.

The merger having been disposed of, the Legislature should now throw away the clubs. There has not been a more vicious attempt at legislative compulsion than the so-called Sunday bill. In this bill express provision is made that no railroad shall move any of its trains on Sunday except where they are used exclusively for the relief of a wrecked train, or for the transportation of the mails, or for the transportation of passengers, or where they constitute interstate freight trains exclusively, or for the transportation of live stock, or for the transportation of articles of a perishable nature. There are other provisions also in the bill, but in its third article the true purpose of the measure is fully exposed. This article declares that "any railroad company taking advantage of any of the provisions of this act shall thereby give up and surrender any exemption from County, District or State taxation conferred by the charter of said company." This means, of course, that any railroad that transports either freight or passengers on Sunday will thereby forfeit its exemption from taxation, and this means, of course, that the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad cannot do the things which the other railroads in the State can do without penalizing itself, sacrificing the rights which it enjoys under its charter. These rights, it is claimed, must be determined by the Court of Appeals.

The third article, or Cooke amendment, of the bill is aimed directly at the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, its purpose being, as its proponent has declared, to force this company to stop business on Sunday or give up its exemption from taxation, which the railroad claims to be part of its contract rights made with the State seventy-five years ago and acquiesced in by the State for all that period of time. There is an indirectness about this whole business that is wholly discreditable to the State. If the Sunday law shall not be reconsidered and rejected, it will mean simply that the stream of commerce moving from the South over the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad to the North will be obliged absolutely to stop at the Southern border of Virginia from Saturday night at midnight and there remain until Sunday night at midnight, and the trains moving South will be obliged to stop at Quantico, the northern terminus of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, at midnight on Saturday night and there remain until Sunday night at midnight before they can be moved. It does not require any expert knowledge upon the subject to justify one in saying that the effect of such a rule as this would be disastrous not only to the Atlantic Coast Line and the other Southern roads, but also to the business of Richmond, because the enforcement of such a law would inevitably result in the diversion of this trade through the Norfolk gateway.

The case is so plain that we do not see how it is possible for any member of the Legislature who is at all interested in the welfare of the State to give his consent to this method of compelling a creature of the State to sacrifice the rights and privileges and immunities granted to it by the State. The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, as we understand, is perfectly willing and ready to surrender its tax exemption and to be placed on a parity with all other railroads in the State, bearing the burdens which they bear and sharing the privileges which they enjoy, if the State, as a stockholder of this company, in consideration of such surrender, shall give up its special privileges as a stockholder and assume an equality with other stockholders. This seems to be fair, and upon this basis the question should be settled. The merger bill having been rejected, temporarily at least, it would be good policy for the Legislature now to reject the Sunday bill and the Flag bill, as these measures were admittedly passed for the purpose of compelling the merger. There is a right way and a wrong way

**ACT ON THE TAX QUESTION TO-DAY.**

To-day, if ever, the Assembly must act on the tax question. Unless some decisive step is taken before the houses adjourn to-day, there is little prospect that any equalization scheme can be given a hearing. In the last two or three days there will be a scramble for the passage of special revenue measures, in which great and important questions may be overlooked unless brought forward by unanimous consent.

The present confusion came quickly. The House disapproved the Fletcher bill on Tuesday, contrary to general expectations. This was a bad day's work, and must be undone at any hazard. The Fletcher bill was not an ideal measure. It was not even a good temporary remedy for the gross evils of assessments. Yet it was better than no law at all, especially in the face of the land assessment of this year. To prevent the loss of his plan, Senator Fletcher has served notice that he will make a last attempt to secure the passage of a measure which provides for equalization by representatives from the five grand divisions of the State. This is not all that might be desired and is open to serious objection, but it is better than the original plan, and should be accepted without hesitation if the Assembly is firm in its intention to postpone the work of the tax commission during the present year.

The whole plan of tax reform, however, has not suffered a more menacing blow than that given it by the House on Tuesday, when it reduced the salary of the expert to be employed by the tax commission from \$600 to \$200 the month. This means that the Assembly voted not to employ an expert at all, but to secure the services of some man with a reasonable knowledge of theoretical taxation in America, who not half a dozen men in America who are really competent to unravel the tangled mazes of our tax code, and not one of these men can be secured for less than the sum originally stipulated in the Holland bill. We can get a cheap man, to be sure, but his work will be cheap. We can be economical, if we desire, and save perhaps a thousand dollars, but we can be extravagant in our economy and lose millions of dollars in taxes for our pains.

We know the Assembly is working under a strain, and we know its members cannot coolly consider every one of the many problems now coming before them for their attention. Tax reform, however, must not suffer. It is the most important question now on the calendar, and it must sail on its passage, if a hundred pet measures have to be thrown overboard and a score of favorite bills scuttled.

**HONOR TO WHOM HONOR.**

Attorney-General Williams was entirely right when he suggested to the Senate committee in the discussion of the merger bill that "the best thing to do is to do nothing." That would certainly be better than to do the wrong thing. The R. F. & P. road is a valuable property, worth fully \$2,000,000. It has been made valuable by its active and practical management, with which the State has had absolutely nothing to do. The people who have built up are the people who deserve the credit for building it up. Anybody can see that, if he will only look at the matter for a minute. What the State has gotten out of it in the way of dividends on its stock and bonds has been taken care of, thanks to the honesty and good business sense of the officers of the State; but let us not fail to praise the bridge that has carried us over safely—the men who have made the road a most valuable property. It has been as well managed when the Legislature was not in session as when that body was passing laws for its penalization.

**THE APPROPRIATION BILL.**

A long loud wall will soon resound over the State. In the wake of the mail which carries the text of the general appropriation bill and in the trail of the telegraph which spreads its content over the State, there will be sorrow among the office holders and deep regret in public institutions. Few are to be given all that they desire; many boards will be compelled to postpone the splendid plans devised for the enlargement of their work; some appropriations have been ruthlessly cut; a few, a very few, salaries have been reduced.

Of course, this was to be expected. Every Assembly, save that of 1908, has been forced to clip the appropriations requested, and has been compelled to reduce the amounts asked by the State institutions. Consequently the legislators who will have heaped on the reproaches of their office-holding constituents may console themselves with the thought that they fare like their peers, the heroes of old. If they have done the best they could, and we believe they have, the committees have only to return to their constituents and state the facts as they are.

A study of the appropriation bill, however, will disclose a fair regard for almost every public work except good roads. Practically every branch of government is kept on the secure and broad basis authorized by the Assembly of 1908. There are but half-a-dozen alarming cuts, and but few reductions that will effect the efficiency of the public service. There are some discrepancies between the reports of the House and of the Senate, which must be fought out in conference. The Senate, for example, continues Major Hunter's Department and appropriates \$5,000 for its work. The House makes no such appropriation. The Senate proposes that \$150,000 go to public roads, while the House would give \$125,000. These differences may encourage

those who hope against hope, but they will not materially affect the general terms of the bill. If former customs prevail, the Senate's bill will give place to that of the House, and the figures of the latter will be nearer the ideal allowance than those proposed by the upper House.

We regret above everything else the failure of the Assembly to make a proper appropriation for good roads. Virginia has been urging the counties to improve their highways for some years, and has been most liberal in its appropriation for that purpose. To reduce the amount given to the counties will be to decrease the efficiency of the work now being done, to put a damper on the good roads spirit in every county, and to weaken the confidence of the counties in the permanent policy of the State. It is useless to cry over-spilt milk, and almost useless to hope for an amendment of the bill on the floor of either house. Yet, if any changes may be made in the bill, we trust they will add to the good roads appropriation. No other cause is more immediate and pressing, more permanent and more enduring.

**THE STRANDED BILLS.**

The storm in the Assembly is still sweeping on, but the sands of the Calendar are covered with the wrecks of abandoned bills. The House has been relentless, and the Angel who directs the whirlwind has been unsparing. No new measures are to be taken up. They have decided that financial bills and bills from the Senate shall be discussed for the remainder of the session in the lower House. This means a long farewell to many measures which were proudly heralded by their admiring patrons and fondly lauded by their makers as the panacea for a hundred political ills.

In this mass of dead ones are many measures which should have died young and others which should never have been born. The Throckmorton milk bill belongs to the latter class and has received the neglect which it deserved. It was conceived in no liberal spirit and was begotten in error. With it will perish the Keyser Drug Store bill which aimed to give refreshment to the thirsty in the arid plains. This, too, probably deserved its fate. Then there is that curious measure which required the election of school trustees. As this bill would have fostered the evil spirit put forward in the Love bill—that memorable House bill \$5—and would have aided the work of putting the schools back into that slough of politics from which they have been rescued, its death is not to be regretted.

If these were the only measures which perished, there might be cause for rejoicing all over the State, and for sincere congratulation among all friends of good government. Such is not the case. Almost as many good measures have been lost by the decision of the House. Chief among these is the Byrd primary bill. How the Assembly came to leave this stranded is a mystery. It was considered from the first as the belated fulfillment of a party pledge and was thoroughly discussed in detail before it came up in the House. It held the attention of the press for days and was regarded as the most important single bill to be made law at this session. Then, suddenly it was abandoned as completely as though it had never been introduced. We do not venture an explanation of this state of affairs, but we regret it more keenly than any single occurrence of the session. We see in it a political blemish that may reach some of our legislators before the next Assembly meets.

With this splendid measure have perished others, almost as good. The West fee bill, the income tax-listing bill, and the Byrd-Vickham oyster bill are all lost. No amount of work can secure their passage at this late day. The evils which they were aimed to correct must continue for two years more.

It is too early yet to cast up and balance, for good or for evil, the work of the Assembly, but it is not too soon to regret the spirit which wasted hours in the trite discussion of minor matters and left untouched these measures, so vitally affecting the public weal. We have lost a golden opportunity.

**What the Papers Think.**

"To the Hon. Richard E. Byrd, more than to any other man, the people of Virginia are indebted for their escape from a blunder that would have been worse than a crime—the same being the Federal income tax amendment to the Constitution. That is very well said. Our neighbor says a great many things that are worth saying, and doesn't care who knows it."

"With such able assistants as Allen Potts, R. D. Ford and R. W. Simpson," says the esteemed North Emporia Independent. "The Times-Dispatch should keep first place and set a pace for Southern newspapers." That is exactly what The Times-Dispatch is going to do, dear contemporary; but don't forget Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, who knows his duty and dares to do it, and do it well, and don't forget Forward, and McKissick, and Bell, and Mackreth, and Smith, and Davenport, and Bell, and Irving, and Fitzgerald, and the girls who write about all sorts of things, and don't forget the Bryans, generally, on Tuesdays, gentlemen upon making this really the greatest newspaper in the South. Being the best paper in the South, it will be, of course, the best paper in the country.

The North Emporia Independent sounds a note that ought to be regarded by the people of this State, and particularly by the Democrats of the Ninth District: "Sleep is no slouch when it comes to the little game of politics," and, again, "Sleep has been this time everything in his favor." All the more glory, then, in beating him, and the only way to beat him is for all the Democrats to work for Henry Stuart, early and late, every

day in the week, and all the time, until after the votes are counted. The fight is worth making, but it must be a fight to a finish.

"The old Commonwealth is now awake and has faced the 'dubious sun,'" says the Fredericksburg Daily Star, speaking of the splendid work that has been done in this State for the improvement of the public highways; but our friends have probably noted that the Legislature of the old Commonwealth got just the least bit weak in the legs when it cut down the appropriation for this great work. Every man in the State has a personal interest in the building of good roads, and no appropriation would have been too big for this purpose. We have made a fine start, it is true, but it is only a start, and the work ought to go on and get bigger year after year, until every public road in the State is a good road.

The New York Times having indulged the other day in this flimsy talk about President Taft "What does it avail him now, that he has availed him since the Vienna speech, to repeat his feeble defense of that dishonorable deception (the Payne bill)? Fifteen millions of votes cannot be lied to and not find it out." Commenting upon this vigorous statement of the Times, the Bristol Herald-Courier observes that it was the Times "which published the forged Cleveland letter during the last presidential campaign, and did whatever else it could to defeat Bryan and elect Taft." That is what might be called a flare-back. We do not see, however, any great inconsistency between what the Times said during the campaign and what it says now. Its opposition to Mr. Bryan did not necessarily mean that it would support all that Mr. Taft should do or cut it off from criticism of what he failed to do.

The Evening World, of Roanoke, congratulates a recent addition to the population of Virginia upon "coming to the grandest State of them all." That is why he came.

Congress has refused to reward Commander Peary for anything he has done until he shows Congress exactly what he has done. But there is Matt Henson; why not call on him for his heroism? He got just as near to the North Pole as the Commander, and, besides, he is of the right color to impress the Republican side of the House with his good faith.

What has become of Captain Loos in all this renewed activity about the North Pole business? Couldn't he make up some records for Peary that would help out?

If Secretary Dickinson doesn't want to eat the cottonseed flour his enterprising nephew has sent him from Texas, why doesn't he feed it to Baltimore?

Here is one worm that has turned, Leicester M. Pond, of Spokane, having sued Miss Elizabeth Keller, of Poughkeepsie, for \$25,000 for breach of promise of marriage, and it is hoped that he will get the money.

Heyburn is again in eruption. He dares the United States Forestry Service to interfere with affairs in Idaho; but Idaho is not one of the Original States, and has no rights under the Constitution that the General Government should respect. If old Jim Gordon, of Mississippi, is still around in the Capitol, he ought to be called in to settle this difficulty.

"My relations with Mr. Lillis have been such that no one, unless insane, could have found fault with them," says Mrs. Cuddey; but why should she have had any relations with him? "What's fecuba to him, or he to fecuba?"

Something must be done with those fellows up in Washington. They are growing too stinky with the people's money. The House voted away only \$214,000,000 at one sitting the other day, while the Senate disposed of a trifling \$13,500,000.

Congress is to pass another bill changing the government of Porto Rico. In other words, some young Congressman will persist in experimenting.

Nicholas Tschalkovsky and Mme. Breshova are on trial in St. Petersburg. At least, that's what the cable says. We do not know them. They should be exiled to North Carolina for having such names.

Colonel Roosevelt went shooting on a tributary of the West Nile the other day. The scribe does not add how much dinner Mr. R. ate or whether he took his toddy with the nabob of the place. Details cannot be given out. They are worth a dollar a word, remember.

Our old friend King Edward went to Paris and did not receive a single present of a bomb. This anarchist business is getting rather slow.

A Chicago woman says she is not a lady. No, there is no mistake. She said it, not her friends. And it was not at a suffragette meeting.

They are just beginning to doubt about Paul Revere's ride up in New England. The legend was rejected here years ago, because we did not believe one of those slow Boston nags could gallop ten miles in a week, much less in a night.

We think those editors on the planet Venus are to be congratulated because they have no time. They do not realize how long it is between pay days.

Gynecology was the theme of an address before a Baltimore Institute of Banking the other night. We have no idea what the man talked about, but for a second syllable of the word we take it he had some connection with Jeff Davis, of Arkansas.

The London Daily Mail has a long essay on teaching parrots to talk. We have always heard six months in a ship's forecastle recommended for a good vocabulary of terse, strong words.

A Kentucky negro has signed to ride as jockey for an Australian colt at a salary of \$8,000 a year. He will soon be contending with Booker T. and Jack Johnson as the leader of his race.

We have received another letter from him; but we shall not print it, being admonished by King Solomon in one of the finest of his proverbs that it is an unprofitable thing to answer a certain sort of person according to his folly. (That thou also be like unto him.) They are arguing the beginning of

the word "cussing" in some of the papers. We know nothing of that, but a black eye is the best way of ending it. We have ever met with.

The finest fried chicken in the world is to be found in Virginia; but it is not fried in the skillet of the Texas sort.

The papers keep praising Woodrow Wilson, and are asking how he has done such good work at Princeton. Why do they not give the right answer and be done with it. He was raised in Franklin county, Va., and learned to chew tobacco when he was a boy.

They are making cottonseed flour now, which only goes to show that the South can feed itself, clothe itself and keep its money in its own pocket.

Tammany announces it has faith in the Democracy, but the experience of the party does not justify a return of the compliment.

Editor Charles Hopkins Clark, of the Hartford Courant, will be pleased possibly to learn that the Seeders cook rice very much as the Yankees cook it, so that it makes a sort of paste, and not as the true-trust Charleston cooks prepare it, so that every grain stands by itself in fine pariclean aloofness. We are especially interested just now, however, in the peanut, one of the principal products of grand old Virginia, and would advise Brother Clark to eat them, raw or parched. In either way they are a specific for dyspepsia.

We would warn the peanut and all singular, that the peanut is not the best diet during active political campaigns.

How in the world does the Chicago Tribune expect the Democratic Senators at Washington to agree with it in its efforts to break up the Republican machine when it will not praise them when they happen to wander away from the policies of the party in power, as they did in the vote on the postal savings bank bill?

If it is all the same to Speaker Cannon, we wish he would pass a bill at the present session of Congress providing for the free entry of wood pulp. He wouldn't do such a thing for Herman Ridder and Medill McCormick, we know, but he might do it for us. The tax on wood pulp, as Mr. Cannon is aware, is a tax on education.

When Ellihu Root was told of the death of Mr. Platt the other day, he remarked: "I thank you for the information; but I have nothing to say." That is to say, he had nothing further to say, as it would have added nothing to the brutal force of his brief comment. The Springfield Republican thinks that the observation of Mr. Root was almost as effective as the comment of the distinguished man in Massachusetts, who declined to attend the funeral of Wendell Phillips, but said that he heartily approved of it. Yet old "Tom" Platt was one of the greatest moral forces in his party.

We would say for the information of the Charlotte Observer, that both the deacon and the doctor got there.

According to the president of the National Association of Retail Milliners, of Chicago, the fashionable hat of this summer will be at least twenty inches across, and untrimmed crowns will be as cheap as \$25. Instead of making the hats bigger, why doesn't the Chicago society do something to make the foot of the average Chicago woman in the matter of a sum of \$1,000,000 by the sale of Bunny Hall, near Nottingham, which was bequeathed to him just before Christmas by William, fifth Earl of Northampton, a successful lace manufacturer of Nottingham.

Sir Richard was in no way related to Mr. William Smith, indeed he scarcely knew her, and owed his inheritance of Bunny Hall to an odd combination of circumstances. Sir Richard, who has been a successful ambassador at Vienna, has been so prolific with his pen, and has been so successful in his diplomatic service, originally it belonged to Sir Horace's uncle, Lord Ranelagh, who had seen a lord in waiting, and a boon companion of his godfather, the Regent, afterwards George IV., an associate of Byron and Keats, and a member of the crew that sailed England with its license and charmed it with its wit and its songs. Sir Horace, according to his own account, had inherited Bunny Hall from his uncle, but he had not inherited him during a stay here, in 1850, when he died, a eccentric old peer, favoring the eccentric old peer's favorite.

Lord Ranelagh left it instead to a woman friend, who had been the mistress of the Regent, and who, extremely of the Regent's family, there was no end of a fuss among the peer's nephews and nieces. One alone, the daughter of a peer, had been the eldest sister of Lord Ranelagh, but even went so far as to marry a commoner, and the lady in question should have received the reward to which she was entitled by her years of devoted service. She was grateful for this, and on her death it was found that, while she had given a life interest in the Bunny Hall estate to her son, she had also given it to her daughter, who had subsequently married the son of a peer.

Sir Richard is very popular, both in County Westmeath and at Dublin, especially among the Irish, and he is now in his home wholly in Ireland, the Parwick Hall estate, in County Derby, which had been in the possession of the peer's family for many years. Queen Elizabeth, having been sold by his father, Sir Richard served for a time in the Eighteenth Hussars, and was afterwards in the Crimea, and his mother, now the Dowager Lady Levinge, is a sister of the late Sir Richard's wife, who was the daughter of a peer, and was married the Puritan for the America Cup in 1855.

Walter and London Times. In connection with the death of Arthur Fraser Walter, chairman of the limited liability company owning the London Times newspaper, which, however, Lord Northcliffe controls, the largest single interest, attention should be drawn to the fact that the company is owned by which the Walters have declined the offers of peerages from crown and government. To my own knowledge, no other man has ever been made a peer, but invariably refused, the Walters holding that the acceptance of any title would add no dignity to their name, would impair their independence.

school teachers, and it may be true that some are not receiving what they are worth. But it is safe to say that the vast majority of school teachers in Virginia could be placed in one of two classes: First, those who do not want a pension, and second, those who do not need it. True it is that teachers a few years ago were working for salaries that would now be considered inadequate. It is also true that the teachers who were receiving these salaries were getting more than they could have earned in any other way. By granting that the teacher is underpaid, would it not be far wiser to raise his salary than to impose an additional tax upon the people? If they can never receive any benefit whatever from it, and granting that the teacher of the past has been badly paid, it is not a question of money upon the teacher of today? It was an ethical principle that

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**Daily Queries and Answers**  
Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

**"Crane Major."**  
1. Please give the English of "Crane major" and the meaning of "Crane major" in English of "Crane major." D. S. T.  
2. The greatest bear.  
3. No answer appears in our Spanish dictionary.

**Andrew Carnegie.**  
Will you kindly state where a letter will reach Andrew Carnegie?  
READER.  
2 East Ninety-first Street, New York City.

**Public School Examinations.**  
1. At what time this spring will the public school examinations be held?  
2. What are the requirements for first and second grade certificates naming studies required for each?  
3. The examinations will be held at the time fixed by the city or county boards as the case may be. There is no State law on the subject.  
4. These are too lengthy to print. Write to the Hon. J. D. Eggleston, Superintendent of Public Instruction. He will send you a copy of the regulations.

**Cutting the Flag.**  
Is it unlawful to cut the American flag to use as a relic?  
CONSTANT READER.  
There is no law to prevent you from cutting the flag if you so desire.

**Letter- Etiquette.**  
On an writing to a firm of "T. Brown & Sons" would you put "Messrs." before the firm name as follows: "Messrs. T. Brown & Sons, Richmond, Va." or "The T. Brown & Sons, Richmond, Va."?  
Yes, and then begin, "Gentlemen."

**Household Premium Contest.**  
A kindly friend has made in your paper saying that household premium coupon of February 11 was dated February 13. The coupon clipped by J. Brown, of the Petersburg, Va., bears the correct date. E. G. S.  
A portion of the edition was dated

**Baronet Weds a Stage Beauty.**  
Sir Richard Levinge Carries Miss Irene Desmond to Irish Castle.

**IS YOUNG AND VERY WEALTHY**  
Inherited \$1,000,000 From "Lady" to Whom His Grandfather Was Considerate.

**BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.**  
YOUNG SIR RICHARD LEVINGE, who has just married Miss Irene Desmond, of the Emerald, in London, is the tenth holder of the baronetcy bestowed upon his ancestor, Sir Richard Levinge, for his services as Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and is very well off. Not only does he own extensive estates in Ireland, where he makes his home, at Knockdrin Castle, in County Westmeath, but he has also realized with him in the matter of a sum of \$1,000,000 by the sale of Bunny Hall, near Nottingham, which was bequeathed to him just before Christmas by William, fifth Earl of Northampton, a successful lace manufacturer of Nottingham.

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Inherited \$1,000,000 From "Lady" to Whom His Grandfather Was Considerate.

**BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.**  
YOUNG SIR RICHARD LEVINGE, who has just married Miss Irene Desmond, of the Emerald, in London, is the tenth holder of the baronetcy bestowed upon his ancestor, Sir Richard Levinge, for his services as Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and is very well off. Not only does he own extensive estates in Ireland, where he makes his home, at Knockdrin Castle, in County Westmeath, but he has also realized with him in the matter of a sum of \$1,000,000 by the sale of Bunny Hall, near Nottingham, which was bequeathed to him just before Christmas by William, fifth Earl of Northampton, a successful lace manufacturer of Nottingham.

Sir Richard was in no way related to Mr. William Smith, indeed he scarcely knew her, and owed his inheritance of Bunny Hall to an odd combination of circumstances. Sir Richard, who has been a successful ambassador at Vienna, has been so prolific with his pen, and has been so successful in his diplomatic service, originally it belonged to Sir Horace's uncle, Lord Ranelagh, who had seen a lord in waiting, and a boon companion of his godfather, the Regent, afterwards George IV., an associate of Byron and Keats, and a member of the crew that sailed England with its license and charmed it with its wit and its songs. Sir Horace, according to his own account, had inherited Bunny Hall from his uncle, but he had not inherited him during a stay here, in 1850, when he died, a eccentric old peer, favoring the eccentric old peer's favorite.

Lord Ranelagh left it instead to a woman friend, who had been the mistress of the Regent, and who, extremely of the Regent's family, there was no end of a fuss among the peer's nephews and nieces. One alone, the daughter of a peer, had been the eldest sister of Lord Ranelagh, but even went so far as to marry a commoner, and the lady in question should have received the reward to which she was entitled by her years of devoted service. She was grateful for this, and on her death it was found that, while she had given a life interest in the Bunny Hall estate to her son, she had also given it to her daughter, who had subsequently married the son of a peer.

Sir Richard is very popular, both in County Westmeath and at Dublin, especially among the Irish, and he is now in his home wholly in Ireland, the Parwick Hall estate, in County Derby, which had been in the possession of the peer's family for many years. Queen Elizabeth, having been sold by his father, Sir Richard served for a time in the Eighteenth Hussars, and was afterwards in the Crimea, and his mother, now the Dowager Lady Levinge, is a sister of the late Sir Richard's wife, who was the daughter of a peer, and was married the Puritan for the America Cup in 1855.

Walter and London Times. In connection with the death of Arthur Fraser Walter, chairman of the limited liability company owning the London Times newspaper, which, however, Lord Northcliffe controls, the largest single interest, attention should be drawn to the fact that the company is owned by which the Walters have declined the offers of peerages from crown and government. To my own knowledge, no other man has ever been made a peer, but invariably refused, the Walters holding that the acceptance of any title would add no dignity to their name, would impair their independence.

school teachers, and it may be true that some are not receiving what they are worth. But it is safe to say that the vast majority of school teachers in Virginia could be placed in one of two classes: First, those who do not want a pension, and second, those who do not need it. True it is that teachers a few years ago were working for salaries that would now be considered inadequate. It is also true that the teachers who were receiving these salaries were getting more than they could have earned in any other way. By granting that the teacher is underpaid, would it not be far wiser to raise his salary than to impose an additional tax upon the people? If they can never receive any benefit whatever from it, and granting that the teacher of the past has been badly paid, it is not a question of money upon the teacher of today? It was an ethical principle that

**Baronet Weds a Stage Beauty.**  
Sir Richard Levinge Carries Miss Irene Desmond to Irish Castle.

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